(ख) यदि हां, तो पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान पकड़ी गई ऐसी निर्यातक फर्मों की संख्या क्या है ; और

(ग) ऐसी फर्मों के विरुद्ध की गई कार्रवाई का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रणब मुखर्जी) : (क) से (ग) मांगी गई जानकारी एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

Export of Flowers affected by Imposition of Tax by EU Countries

1812. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 780 given in the Rajya Sabha on 12th December 1994 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that EU extends to the Central American and Afr.can, Caribbean and Pac'fic (ACP) countries, the concession of 'no duty' ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the floriculture industry considers the subsidy of Rs 6 to Rs. 10 per Kg. as too meagre;

(d) if so, whether Government are considering to raise the subsidy and if not, the reasons therefor ;

(e) whether it is also a fact that IATA rates for consignment upto 500 Kg. are higher by about 15 times than those above 500 Kg.

(f) if so, whether Government are considering to remove this anomaly ; and

(g) the names of the countries to which flowers are exported from India alongwith month-wise figures for the last year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) . (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Certain erstwhile colonies of Member-States of the European Union which are members of the Lome Convention have been given special tariff concessions under the European Union's Generalised Scheme of Preferences.

(c) and (d) An Air Freight Subsidy Scheme had been introduced on an experimental basis from 79-93, inter-alia for flowers, flower plants/cuttings and tissue culture. Some Exporters have represented that the subsidy levels should be enhanced as the present levels work out to only about 15% of the cost of air freight. There is no proposal presently under consideration of Government to enhance these rates.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

(g) Information is being obtained and will be laid on the Table of the House.

GATT Provisions Relating to Agriculture

1813. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what steps have been taken by Government in order to give effect to the provisions relating to Agriculture in the final act of the GATT ;

(b) what are the stages and levels at which these steps are lying ; and

(c) what is the timeframe within which these steps are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) As no commitments have been undertaken by India in respect of domestic support, export subsidies and minimum market access, the question of taking any steps to give effect to the provisions of the Agreement on Agriculture does not arise. In regard to the requirement to institute an arrangement for intellectual property right protection for new plant varieties within a transition period of five years, Government is examining the development of suitable legislation for the purpose.

Indian Exports in Post GATT Scenario

1814. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : SHRI M. A. BABY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian exports will grow in the post-GATT scenario;

(b) if so, what are the sectors in which such growth will take place ;

(c) what is the basis for such assessment ; and

(d) whether Government have evolved any concrete year-wise target for the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the estimates made by the GATT Secretariat, the largest increase in trade would occur in the areas of clothing; agricultural/forestry and fishery products; and processed foods and beverages as a result of the Uruguay Round. Since our existing and potential export competitiveness